

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 28, 2004 ("OA"), please enter the amendments set forth above and consider the following remarks. By this response, no claims are canceled, claim 3 is amended, and new claims 15-34 are being added. After entry of this paper, claims 2-5 and 7-34 will be pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has: (i) rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,415,821 to Kamholz et al. ("Kamholz") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,709,692 to Sudor ("Sudor"); and (ii) indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if amended to recite 'wherein said rotatable portion comprises a microscopic paddle wheel having a hydrophobic surface.'

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,415,821 to Kamholz et al. ("Kamholtz") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,709,692 to Sudor ("Sudor").

In the interest of expediting prosecution and avoiding additional costs, Applicant has made the amendment suggested by the Office to render claim 3 patentable over Kamholz and Sudor. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

New Claims

Additionally, Applicant submits that new claims 15-34 do not raise new issues, present new matter or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search, because

(i) all of these claims recite subject matter derived from either existing or canceled claims, and/or (ii) all of the elements, including their relationship to one another, are either disclosed in, or inherent to, the claims already examined. Thus, the subject matter of the newly presented claims has already been before the Office, and no new matter or issues are presented by this amendment and response. The new claims, which are all dependent claims, are also allowable because they depend on allowable base claims 2, 3, 8 and 10. New claims 15-34 are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth previously with respect to claims 2, 3, 8 and 10. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully request allowance of new claims 15-34.

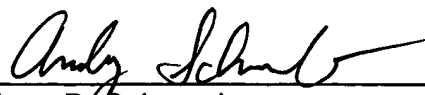
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

Respectfully submitted,

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